

AF/2708

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yutaka Machida
 Serial No.: 09/050,808
 Filed: March 30, 1998
 For: DECODING AND CODING METHOD OF
 MOVING IMAGE SIGNAL, AND DECODING
 AND CODING APPARATUS OF MOVING
 IMAGE SIGNAL USING THE SAME

: Art Unit: 2613
 : Examiner: Allen C. Wong
 : Expedited Procedure
 : 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

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Technology Center 2600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Box AF
 Washington, DC 20231
 SIR :

Responsive to the Official Action dated November 18, 2002, please consider the following Remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 2, 7 and 12-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 7 and 12-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun in view of Tahara. Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 103(a) rejection.

Claims 12, 16, 17 and 20 are independent claims. Claims 12 and 16 are directed to a method for decoding, and claims 17 and 20 are directed to a decoding apparatus. Claims 2, and 13-15 are dependent on claim 12, while claims 18 and 19 are dependent on claim 17.

Turning first to independent claim 12, it is directed to a method for decoding an image signal representing motion, the image signal being a bit stream of a coded compressed video signal. The method of claim 12 includes the following steps:

- decoding the bit stream for information defining pixel blocks,